

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 223112

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ORIGIN CU-04

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APPROVED BY CU/EE:EFORD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 223112

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WRITERS PROGRAM

REF: BUCHAREST 4108

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S CONCERN OVER BLANDIANA PARTICIPATION IN IOWA WRITERS PROGRAM. DEPARTMENT OF COURSE ALSO DESIRES MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION FROM EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND WILLING MAKE ALLOWANCES TO PERMIT THIS. HOWEVER, GRANTEE'S LATE NOMINATION AND LACK OF ENGLISH OPERATE AGAINST HER EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION THIS YEAR, WHICH IS WHY DEPARTMENT SUGGESTED SHE COME IN 1974 INSTEAD. MOREOVER, DEPARTMENT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FACT THAT BUDGET FOR ROMANIA QUITE INELASTIC AND IF COST BLANDIANA TRAVEL BY SHIP GREATLY EXCEEDS COST OF ROUND TRIP ECONOMY AIR FARE (APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 900), FUNDS FOR THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE CUT FROM SOME OTHER PART OF ROMANIAN IV PROGRAM. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY OBTAINING ESTIMATE COST HER TRAVEL VIA SURFACE TRANSPORTATION; INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE INDICATE COST IS APPROXIMATELY THAT OF AIR TRAVEL, IN WHICH CASE, NO PROBLEM WITH FUNDING. PLEASE ADVISE WHEN BLANDIANA CAN BE EXPECTED ARRIVE US. RUSH

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